

Supervisor Romaine and County Executive Bellone Announce Town and County Partnership for Open Space Purchase of 44.3 Acres Adjacent to Mount Sinai Harbor

posted on 9/25/2013 11:26:49 AM

September 24, 2013



Pictured left to right are Legislator Sarah Anker, Brother Eric Michael from the Little Portion Friary, Supervisor Ed Romaine, County Executive Steve Bellone and Councilwoman Jane Bonner.

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Ed Romaine and County Executive Steve Bellone held a press conference to announce a joint purchase agreement between the Town and County for the acquisition of 44.3 acres for open space in Mount Sinai. The property, which is currently owned by the Society of St. Francis, is part of land located adjacent to Mount Sinai Harbor and within the watershed of the harbor. It discharges approximately 25.2 million gallons of water a year to the underlying aquifer which discharges into the harbor, providing a large volume of pure water to this important coastal embayment.

The Town has committed to provide 25% and the County 75% of the \$4,430,000 purchase price. The joint agreement was approved by resolution in the County Legislature on September 12. Joining Supervisor Romaine and County Executive Bellone at the press conference were County Legislator Sarah Anker, who sponsored the resolution, and Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner.

"Suffolk County was happy to work with the Town of Brookhaven to preserve this parcel as an open space acquisition," said County Executive Steve Bellone. "Legislator Anker advocated on behalf of the parcel and now we will have preserved an important parcel in Suffolk County. In addition to this parcel being a scenic, woodland sanctuary along Shore Road in Mount Sinai, this site has critically important natural resource values.

Supervisor Romaine said, "I want to thank County Executive Bellone and the Legislature for their support of this very important open space purchase. Its proximity to Mount Sinai Harbor makes it one of the most significant properties that we have targeted for preservation and the positive impact of this acquisition on the environment will be felt for many years to come."

"The preservation of this environmentally significant property is another example of how working together with a common goal can further strengthen our efforts in the protection of water quality and open space," said Legislator Sarah Anker. "The County and the Legislature have been in the forefront of land preservation and protecting environmentally sensitive parcels for decades. I will continue to work toward ensuring open space for future generations."



Councilwoman Bonner said, "As a North Shore resident, open space preservation and protecting our coastline environment has always been one of my top priorities. Mount Sinai Harbor has a very sensitive ecosystem that we must pay particular attention to and make sure that it continues to be a thriving, beautiful place for residents to enjoy. I have worked for more than a year to get this done and I am very happy to see it come to fruition."

The Town and County made the commitment to partner on the acquisition because of its numerous environmental and ecological attributes. The property is heavily forested with a variety of species

that constitute a coastal oak-beech forest which is a New York State Heritage S3 ranked community, many of which have been diminished by residential development throughout Long Island's north shore. In addition, a number of rare and vulnerable species of vegetation occur on the property, providing a habitat for a variety of resident and migratory bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian species. The property is also positioned on the Harbor Hill Moraine, the younger of the two glacial moraines that were created by the continental ice sheet that formed Long Island. Its high elevation and dramatic slopes provide commanding views of the surrounding area and harbor.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258